



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 7th INFANTRY DIVISION AND FORT CARSON
FORT CARSON, COLORADO 80913-5000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

AFZC-ECM

10 JAN 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Open Burning (OB) Without an Air Permit on Fort Carson

1. Reference memorandum, IMANWR, 20 April 2004, subject: Reducing Enforcement Actions (ENFs).

2. Open burning (OB) without a county and/or state air permit at Fort Carson is illegal. Various Fort Carson units have been destroying classified documents and other materials by burning in unauthorized, unattended open containers.

a. Open burning is defined by the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment and El Paso County Health Department regulations as the burning of any material or substance (rubbish, wastepaper, wood, vegetative material, or other flammable material) in the ambient air on any open premises/public streets. According to these regulations, no permit will be issued for any open burning activity if a practical and feasible alternative method of disposal exists. As determined by the regulators, convenience and cost-effectiveness of open burning are not acceptable disposal criteria.

b. Although Army Regulation 380-5 lists burning as the first option for destroying classified documents and materials, it clearly states it must be done in a controlled furnace/incinerator and permitted by regulatory agencies. Fort Carson does not have any such permitted units.

c. These unauthorized OB incidents violate state, county, and Fort Carson air regulations, as well as a Department of the Army Information Security regulation and potentially hazardous material regulations. They also create safety and health issues for involved personnel and responders from the Fort Carson Fire Department (FCFD) and other organizations such as the Safety Office, Military Police (MP), Criminal Investigation Division (CID), and DECAM. Unauthorized OB incidents tax multiple organization's resources unnecessarily and can result in regulatory notices of violation and associated fines.

d. Multiple open burning incidents have occurred at the same location on the same day or several days apart. Those incidents have been treated as arson and thus were investigated concurrently by FCFD and MP personnel.

e. Similar incidents at other Army installations have had serious regulatory consequences.

3. The majority of open burning incidents have occurred around the time a unit has either returned from the theatre or during preparations for deployment, and involved paper documents. Open burning or evidence of such has been found in various sized containers, varying from 1-gallon commercial roll-offs. Some dumpsters that have caught on fire, contained batteries and other hazardous waste, which presents additional regulatory and public health/safety concerns (encl 1).

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4. Numerous regulations and permits are violated when an OB incident occurs without a permit: Fort Carson's Title V Air Operating Permit # 95OPEP110, Colorado Air Quality Control Commission Regulation Nos. 1 and 9, El Paso County Department of Health and Environment, Army Regulation 380-5, and Fort Carson Regulation 200-1.

5. Environmental Education Outreach.

a. Immediately after the first OB incident, the DECAM implemented an intense public awareness campaign based on lessons learned from other installations. This consisted of wide dissemination of information to Fort Carson leaders, Soldiers, and employees electronically (i.e., e-mails, the SEMS web site), courses [Environmental Protection Officer, Installation Security (ISD)], meetings (EPO, Company Commanders/1st Sergeants briefings), and various post-wide publications.

b. The ISD distributed an email to all Post users on 4 December 2005 describing the only two National Security Agency-approved methods of destroying classified paper and overlay materials on Fort Carson. Neither method involves open burning.

c. The educational awareness open burn flier will continue to be distributed as described in item a., as well at the Training Resource Management meetings (TRMM) (encl 2).

6. Military personnel will be held accountable for illegal OB activities. The FCFD, MPs, CID, DECAM and Command superiors will enforce this restriction. Penalties for illegal OB activities will be implemented through the Uniform Code of Military Justice, and any state/county civil penalties received will be passed on to the responsible unit.

7. The DECAM POC for this issue is Mark Bradbury at 6-4683 or Sally Atkins, Air Program coordinator at 6-6601.

2 Encls



MICHAEL RESTY JR.
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Distribution:
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UNAUTHORIZED OPEN BURNING INCIDENTS IN CALENDAR YEAR 2005

- The first known OB incident in 2005 occurred on 8 March at a motorpool in the rear of Building 2257 Titus Blvd, between Buildings 2257 and 2258. Three open, unattended 55-gallon drums were found burning, whose contents had been approximately half full of documents. Shortly afterwards, it was determined the responsible party (66MI Company, part of the 3rd ACR) had deployed already.

- 5 May, 1806 hours: A dumpster fire at Building 1013, in rear of 1013 O'Connell Blvd. The cause of the fire was unknown, but may have been attributable to a smoldering cigarette. The dumpster contents were three to four bags of wood and several small bags of trash.

- 25 September, 1949 hours: An outside trash can fire next to a storage shed in a multifamily dwelling.

- 29 September 2005, 1100 hours, 3BCT: Two metal, 40-gallon trash cans were filled one-third with ash and discovered at the 3/29th FA Motorpool. The cans' contents contained the remains of non-classified documents (Technical Manuals) that had a distribution restriction of C, which requires the destruction of the manuals when they are no longer needed. The cans burned for 30 minutes before they were discovered and extinguished by the unit's Environmental Protection Officer.

- 6 October, 1635 hours, 2BCT: A dumpster fire occurred between Buildings 2557 and 2558. It was unattended and the cause unknown.

- 12 October, 1421 hours: A dumpster fire between Buildings 2557 and 2558. Trash items on the ground outside of the dumpster were ignited. This was the third fire in the same dumpster in two weeks (the first was unreported by the unit). It is being investigated by MPI.

- 17 November, 1231 hours, 3BCT: A 20-yard roll-off commercial dumpster fire was reported on the east side of Pershing Field adjacent to Building 1352. 20 burned lithium batteries were found, apparently discarded by the using organization. The majority of the material in the container was combustibles (i.e. paperwork, files, manuals, documents). The unit responsible for the dumpster (2/9 CAV, S-4) was on the block leave. 1st SGT Reed could add no information regarding the dumpster but said he would look into it. The unit was preparing to depart to Iraq that month. Although the cause of the fire could not be specifically determined, it may be assumed that either someone placed a fire source in the dumpster or ignition of combustibles occurred from the lithium batteries.

- 18 November, 1507 hours, 3BCT: A dumpster fire at 2058 Magrath Ave. A burn barrel was found inside the dumpster, which was the cause of the fire. The unit responsible was 1/8. SGM Daily stated they were burning top-secret documents

- 19 November, 0120 hours, 3BCT: Another dumpster fire at 2058 Magrath Ave. No further details.
- 28 November, 1105 hours, 3BCT: A 1-gallon trash can was on fire on the sidewalk outside Building 2078. Multiple (cold) 1-gallon and 55-gallon trash cans with evidence of burned documents were found scattered around the 1/68th complex. The unit was getting ready to deploy. Inspector Bacharach spoke to SGM Rimpley about the issues and concerns.
- 30 November, 0826 hours, 3BCT: Another two 55-gallon trash can fires were used for OB and left unattended. One was found smoldering at Building 2077 Khe Sanh Street.
- 2 December, 1506 hours: A dumpster fire was reported at Camp Red Devil. Its contents (newspaper and a mattress) were on fire and left unattended. The responsible party is unknown.
- 15 December, 1000 hours: Three, 5 gallon trash cans containing ashes were found on the south side of Building 1958. Further investigation revealed that 2 of the trash cans came from G Co/3-29 (items burned on 28NOV05) and 1 from A Btry/3-29 (items burned on 29NOV05). Per CPT Dykema (3-29's Rear D Commander) assurances, nothing has been burned since the unit deployed and the Rear D has utilized their shredders to destroy all old classified documents.
- 16 December: One large metal trash can containing ashes was found on the south end of Building 2058. Per LT Staton (1-8), they did not conduct the OB; his soldiers found the burn barrel with its burnt contents in their S & A at Building 2058.
- 29 December, 1100 hours, 10SFG, Building 7416: A 4-yard dumpster was found to be on fire on the east side of the building. Dumpster was 1/8th full with Class A material. The unit was to contact the dumpster company and coordinated with on-site DECAM personnel.

ATTENTION SOLDIERS AND RESIDENTS: BURNING RESTRICTIONS ON FORT CARSON



**Violations of
County/State regulations:
potential to result in fines
and poor public relations
for Fort Carson!**



What constitutes open burning? Burning of rubbish, wastepaper, wood, vegetative material, or other flammable material for disposal purposes.

NO: burning ANYTHING on the ground or in any container (i.e., burn barrel/drum, trash can, dumpster) Although burn barrels are commonly used in overseas military operations, their use on Fort Carson is prohibited. **ONLY exception: approved by the County with an annual permit, is at the MOUT sites using barrels and non-treated firewood.**

NO: non-commercial burning of private household trash, rubber, tires, plastic, insulated wire, or other similar materials.

NO: burning of classified materials. Although Army regulation 380-5 allows for the disposal of classified paper-based materials in a controlled furnace/incinerator, Fort Carson does not have any such permitted units. **Alternative methods available for classified paper-based and non-paper-based materials at Building 1130.**

YES: campfires/barbeques in designated areas ONLY in cantonment, down range, TCRA, Iron Horse Park, and PCMS for recreational/food purposes. **Except no campfires allowed during a burn ban due to impaired air quality or extreme fire hazard.**

YES: a recreational bonfire for a special event. However, it will require a county open burn permit. Coordinate with the DECAM Air Program.

YES: prescribed burn or slash pile burning (only by DPW Fire Dept. or DECAM Wildland Fire Team). Requires county/state burn permit and approved burn plan.

Important Contacts:

DECAM Air Program: 526-6601/1708

Fort Carson Fire Dept: 526-2679

Residential Housing: 579-1606 ext. 11

El Paso County Health Dept: 578-3137 (Air Quality Info. 578-3134)

Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment: 303-692-3174

Classified document disposal: 526-3588

DPW trash disposal: 526-9235

El Paso County Fire Marshall: 575-8590

BURNING RESTRICTIONS ON FORT CARSON
CONTACT THE DECAM AIR PROGRAM 526-6601/526-1708

OPEN BURNING INCIDENTS

The Fort Carson Fire Department has extinguished numerous fires in dumpsters, trash cans, and barrels throughout 2005, as well as found evidence of fires in these containers, which were used to burn documents. Additionally, dumpsters have been found to contain batteries and other hazardous materials, which have also caught on fire. All of these reported and non-reported fires constitute not only environmental violations, but also pose serious health and safety concerns. Although AR 380-5 lists burning as the first option for destroying classified documents, it must be in a controlled furnace/incinerator. Fort Carson does not have any such permitted units, but it does have a specified shredder for classified documents at Bldg 1130.

**FORT CARSON MAY BE FINED FOR THIS VIOLATION, WHICH WILL BE GIVEN TO THE
UNIT RESPONSIBLE**

OPEN BURNING REGULATORY DEFINITIONS

Army Regulation 380-5, Chapter 3, Section V, 3-15.a. Approved routine methods of destruction

Burning. A means of pyrolysis (high temperature multistage), by forced-air incinerators, or by any other incinerator or incendiary equipment.

El Paso County: Burning any material or substance in the ambient air or in a receptacle other than a properly designed furnace such as an incinerator or other equipment connected to a stack or chimney.

State, Regulation 9: Burning of rubbish, wastepaper, wood, vegetative material or any other flammable material on any open premises, or on any public street, alley, or other land adjacent to such premises.

REGULATIONS/PERMIT CONDITIONS VIOLATED

- 1) Fort Carson's Title V Operating Permit # 95OPEP110, General Condition # 16 Open Burning: The permittee shall obtain a permit from the Division for any regulated open burning activities in accordance with provisions of Regulation No.1, Section II C.
- 2) Colorado State Regulation No. 1, Section II.C. Open Burning: No person shall burn or allow the burning of rubbish, wastepaper, wood, or other flammable material on any open premises, or on any public street, alley, or other land adjacent to such premises, unless an open burning permit is first obtained from the Division.
- 3) Colorado State Regulation No. 9, Section III, Open Burning Permit Requirements: No person shall conduct any open burning activity not exempted from this regulation without first obtaining an open burning permit from the division or from a local agency. No person shall burn or allow the burning of rubbish, wastepaper, wood, vegetative material, or any other flammable material on any open premises, or on any public street, alley, or other land adjacent to such premises without first obtaining an open burning permit from the division or local agency.
- 4) El Paso County Department of Health and Environment, Section 2.9 Open Burning: No person shall burn or allow the burning of rubbish, waste paper, wood, or other flammable material on any open premises or on any public street, alley, or other land adjacent to such premises unless an open burning permit is first obtained from Health Department. **No permit will be issued for any open burning activity if a practical feasible alternative method of disposal exists as determined by the Department.**
- 5) Army Regulation 380-5, Chapter 3, Section V, 3-15.a. Since there are limitations, in some areas, on bulk incineration, for environmental reasons...mechanical destruction systems have replaced incineration at many commands.
- 6) Fort Carson Regulation 200-1, Chapter 4, Section 3.7. Open Burn/Open Detonation (OB/OD) Activities: Open burning of paper, leaves, refuse, vegetation or other flammable material on any open premises or land on the Installation is strictly prohibited at all times.